

COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 4411

Huntsville, Alabama 35815

J. C. Splman, Editor

Volume 32, No. 1

February, 1992

Serial No. 90

FOUR by TRUDGEN

1. Actual Location of the Rahway Mint? Page 1281
A two centuries old map by Christopher Colles
poses the question.
2. A Brief Look at the Life of Thomas Goadsby Page 1284
New Jersey coinier with Walter Mould and Albion Cox.
3. Additional Information on Jasper Smith Page 1291
With additional comments by David Gladfelter.
4. Samuel Broome to Alexander Hamilton Page 1293
James Jarvis is in trouble -- Help!

**And MORE by Trudgen
later this year!**

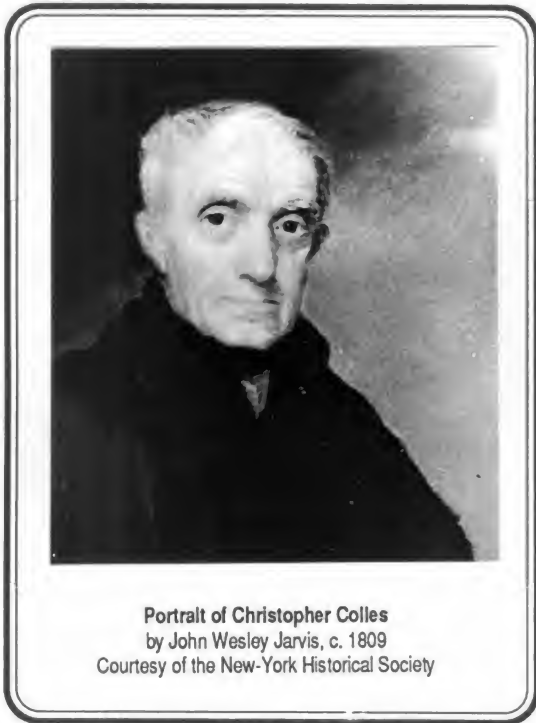
The Mystery Men of Machin's Mills,
James Atlee and Samuel Atlee,
have been superbly researched
by Gary A. Trudgen
and his findings will be presented in
CNL
later this year in one of the most fascinating
numismatic biographies that
we have ever published!

Which Mill Was the Actual LOCATION OF THE RAHWAY MINT?

by
Gary A. Trudgen

(TN-139)

The first map of American roads was published in 1789 by Christopher Colles. Entitled "A Survey of the Roads of the United States of America 1789," it included an extensive survey of the primary roadways along the eastern seaboard. Each mile was carefully measured, and notable landmarks were indicated on the map to help the traveler find his way. Most importantly, each ordinary (tavern) along the road was marked so that the traveler could wisely plan his trip.



Portrait of Christopher Colles
by John Wesley Jarvis, c. 1809
Courtesy of the New-York Historical Society

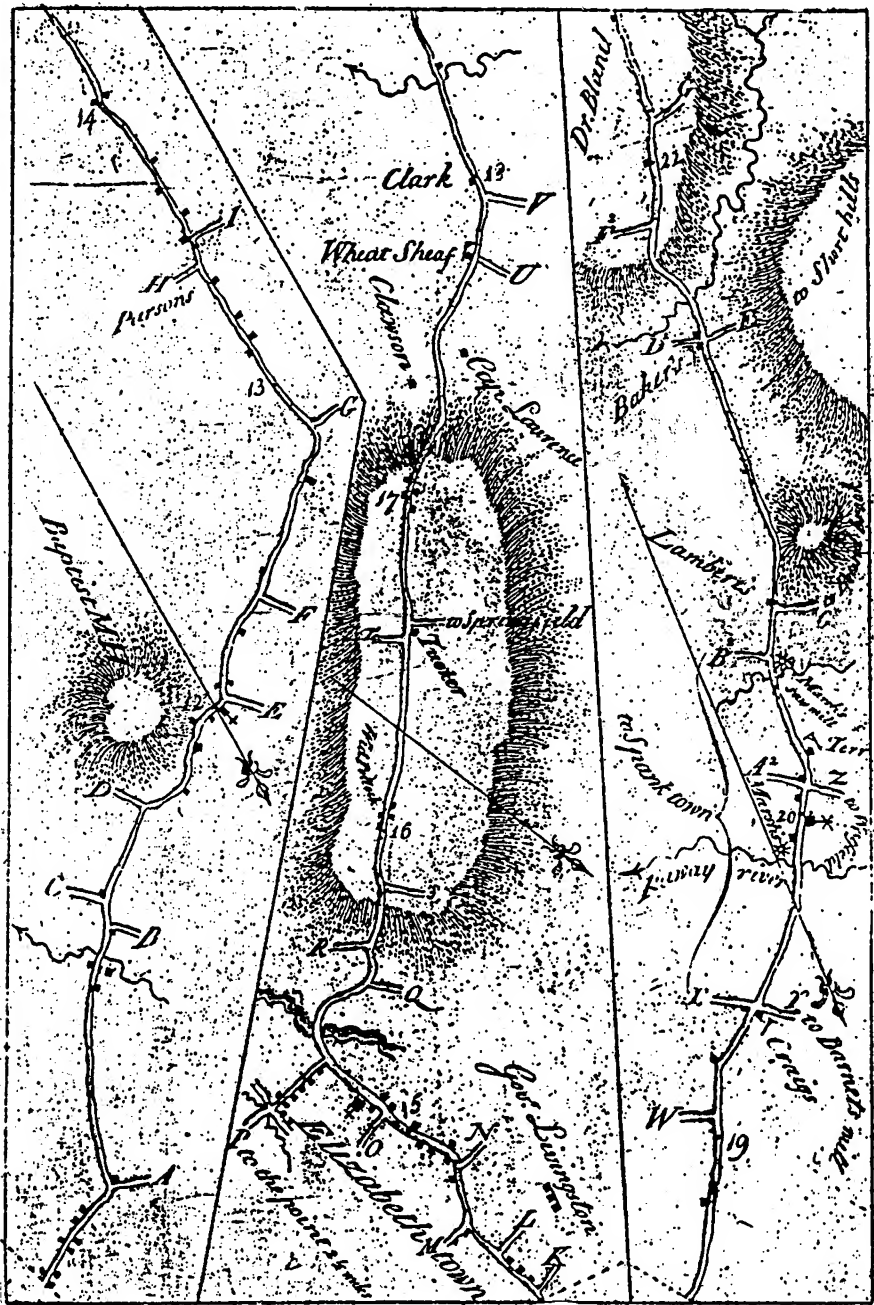
The cartographer, Christopher Colles, was born in Ireland in 1738 and received a good education from Richard Pococke, an Anglican bishop. After the bishop's death in 1765, Colles emigrated to America. Initially he resided in Philadelphia, where he lectured on pneumatics and other scientific subjects. Eventually Colles relocated to New York City where he convinced the city officials to replace their wells and springs with a water system. He proposed erecting a reservoir and then piping the water to city streets. Unfortunately, the onset of the Revolutionary War terminated this project. During the war Colles taught the principals of projectiles in the artillery department of the Continental Army. After the war he proposed several internal improvements for the new nation, particularly canals. During this period he also compiled the road map from his own actual measurements and from military maps generated by the surveying department of the Continental Army.

Throughout his life Colles' primary interest was invention and science. He was held in high esteem by his contemporaries and was described as a man of loveable character, pleas-

ing personality, and absolute honesty. Unfortunately, he was usually in financial difficulty and often had to rely on assistance from friends. He died on October 4, 1816. Two centuries later, unbeknownst to Colles, his road map would be a primary source of information concerning the copper coinage produced by the State of New Jersey.

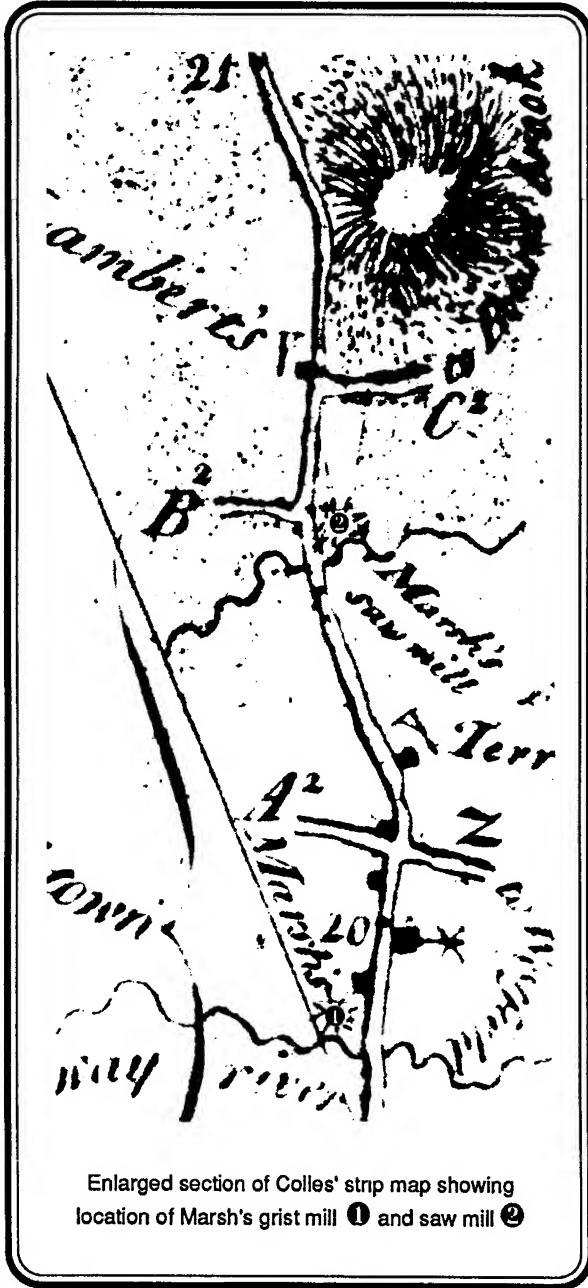
On June 1, 1786 the State of New Jersey passed the bill "An Act for the Establishment of a Coinage of Copper in this State." Three contractors, Walter Mould, Albion Cox, and Thomas Goadsby were granted the privilege of this coinage. For their mint, they leased the mills of Daniel Marsh in Rahway, New Jersey. Marsh, a representative in the New Jersey General Assembly, was the one who had introduced the coinage bill in the legislature. He had purchased his mills, a grist mill and saw mill, in October 1777.

From New York (41) to Brunswick



Colles' Map Showing Three Strips from New York to Brunswick
Note positions of North-Arrows

Damon G. Douglas, in his article "The Original Mint of the New Jersey Coppers," established the location of the mint site in Rahway (1). He claimed that it was located along the south bank of the Rahway River on the east side of present-day St. George's Avenue. Here he believed Daniel Marsh's grist mill and saw mill were both located. However, Colles' road map shows this to not be totally accurate.



The Rahway, New Jersey area is shown on plate 41 of Colles' road map. Contrary to map convention today, north is shown at the bottom, while south is at the top. A mill site is indicated on the map by the symbol *.

*. If the type of mill is not specified, then the mill is a grist mill. An inspection of Colles' map of the Rahway area does show that Daniel Marsh owned a grist mill along the south bank of the Rahway River. However, the map shows that Marsh's saw mill was not at the same location. Instead it was located on the other side of town, approximately 1/2 mile south of the grist mill. The numbers along the roadway are mileage markers, in this case showing the elapsed number of miles from New York City. Mile 20 is shown opposite the Rahway Presbyterian Church or just south of Marsh's grist mill. Mile 21 is shown beyond Lambert's ordinary.

Contemporary correspondence and legal rulings refer to the mint site as the mills of Daniel Marsh (2). This infers that both the grist mill and saw mill were used by the coinage contractors to mint New Jersey coppers. Therefore, Christopher Colles' road map throws a new twist into our understanding concerning the location of the Rahway Mint. It is reasonable to assume that the actual striking of coppers would have been done at only one location. While the other location would have been used to perform other work in the minting process. Thus, Colles' road map places some doubt in our assuredness as to the actual physical location where the coppers were struck. Were they struck at the grist mill site, as claimed by Douglas, or were they struck at the saw mill site?

NOTES

(1). Douglas' article was originally published by the New Jersey Historical Society. A reprint of the article appeared in the July 1968 issue of The Colonial Newsletter, pages 225 through 229.

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE LIFE OF THOMAS GOADSBY

by

Gary A. Trudgen

(TN-140)

INTRODUCTION

On June 1, 1786 the New Jersey State Legislature enacted a bill which established a copper coinage within the state. The bill authorized a mintage of 3 million coppers. To fulfill the coinage, a contract was granted to three men; Walter Mould, Albion Cox, and Thomas Goadsby. They were required to execute the coinage within two years and pay the state a seigniorage of ten percent.

Today, the coins they produced are affectionately known as "Horse Head" coppers and are prized by the collector of early American coinages. One factor which adds to the appeal of these coppers is that they were the first authorized coinage to carry our national motto. The obverse of the coin depicts a head of a horse, a plow, and the legend NOVA CAESAREA (Latin for New Jersey). A representation of the United States shield appears upon the reverse with the legend E PLURIBUS UNUM (Latin for One Composed of Many), our national motto.



1786 New Jersey Maris 25-S

Taylor: 2195

Photograph courtesy Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.

Numismatists have studied and collected these coppers for over a century. However, little is known about the three men who were granted the contract to produce them. Knowledge of the people involved in a coinage episode can not only add to the enjoyment of collecting the coins they produced, but also aid the researcher in correctly interpreting the history of the coinage operation. With this idea in mind, the following biographical information on Thomas Goadsby is presented. This information is newly discovered from primary sources.

ARRIVAL IN AMERICA

Thomas Goadsby was an Englishman, from London, who emigrated to America in the spring of 1783. He settled in New York City, while it was still occupied by the British Army. The American Revolution was over, but the British didn't evacuate the city until later that year on the 25th of November. Before the British Army embarked, speculators crowded into the city, including many Europeans. The prospect that many loyalists would also leave the city suggested unlimited opportunities to newcomers.

Even though Thomas Goadsby was a recent American immigrant, there is some evidence that he was considered a loyalist by the patriot authorities. His name appears on a handwritten manuscript list of named loyalists that was drawn up in New York City circa 1783 (1). This list provides no additional information concerning the named individuals and it is unknown why Goadsby was included.

The June 9, 1783 issue of Hugh Gaine's *New-York Gazette and Weekly Mercury* carried a lengthy advertisement by Thomas Goadsby & Co. This initial ad stated that they had just arrived from London and were manufacturers of "silk gauze, ribbon, cloak silk, barcelona, and colour'd silk handkerchiefs." They had imported in the ships Edward and Castle Douglas an extensive assortment of dry goods which was offered for sale at No. 40 Hanover Square in New York City.

Goadsby's business partners are identified in the minutes of the New York City Mayor's Court. They were Joseph and Thomas Holmes and Maria and Samuel Kirkman. These people, along with Goadsby, appear in litigation in this court three times from 1784 through 1790. The 1782 trade directories of London list Goadsby's partners as silkmen and weavers, located at 63 Friday Street (2). Their firm name was Kirkman, Holmes, and Co. It is not known if Thomas Goadsby was a partner in this operation or how the formation of Thomas Goadsby & Co. came about.

Apparently Thomas Goadsby & Co. did not manufacture goods while in New York City. Instead, they were merchants who imported dry goods from London for resale. Samuel Loudon's *New-York Packet* carried their next three ads. The first on January 12, 1784 informed the reader that they "Have imported in the Edward, Captain Coupar, a general assortment of DRY GOODS, suitable for the season, which they will Sell on very low terms for Cash." During this period there was a post-war cash shortage. Thomas Goadsby & Co. quickly discovered this fact. Their next ad, which appeared on April 22, 1784, announced that they would sell their goods for "cash, Morris' or bank notes, pot and pearl ash, or flax seed." A curious assortment of items then in use as mediums of exchange.

Appended to the preceding ad was a notice that Thomas Goadsby should be contacted by anyone with information that would lead to the recovery of any part of the estate or effects of a John Coles. A Commission of Bankruptcy, under the Great Seal of Great Britain, had been issued against Coles. Coles was a merchant who had once resided in London at Basinghall Street, but was now in New York City. The informant was promised 25% of the recovered funds. Goadsby's full role in this bankruptcy is not understood. The offered reward is much higher than the 5% reward normally provided for by English law (3). Perhaps Goadsby was hired by Coles' creditors or was himself a major creditor of Coles. From all indications, it appears that Thomas Goadsby & Co. did not flourish in America. During this time, many New York City merchants got into financial difficulty because they had imported too much merchandise while prices were falling. Their next ad, which is shown on the following page, appeared on June 10, 1784.

(1) Notes appear on page 1287.

THOMAS GOADSBY, and Co.
Silk-Gauze, Ribbon, Cloak Silk and Silk-
Handkerchief MANUFACTURERS,
Removed from Hanover-square to No. 20,
Smith-street, next door to Wall-street,
Have imported by the ship Friendship, Captain
Milford, just arrived from London,
A valuable and extensive Assortment of
D R Y G O O D S,
Suitable for the present season, which they will
sell on the most reasonable Terms, for Cash,
Morris's or Bank Notes, or Short Credit. &c

Thomas Goadsby, and Co. ad from the June 10, 1784 *New-York Packet*

After a stay of one year at the Hanover Square address, Thomas Goadsby & Co. relocated to No. 20 Smith Street. Shortly thereafter, their old location was advertised for lease. The ad indicated that it was "an excellent dwelling house...suitable for either a merchant or private family." No subsequent ads are known, although the Thomas Goadsby & Co. partnership existed through 1790.

The Bank of New York was formed in 1784 by New York City merchants. Bank records show that Thomas Goadsby was a charter shareholder (4). Goadsby's future copartner in the New Jersey coinage contract, Albion Cox, was also a charter shareholder. Each of them owned two shares.

TROUBLE

On March 22, 1785, a Tuesday, the New York State Assembly, which met in New York City, ordered the arrest of Thomas Goadsby. The Assembly had been informed "that a certain Thomas Goadsby, of the city of New-York, merchant, has lately spoken several malicious and defamatory words, derogatory to the honor and dignity of the Legislature, and tending to excite and promote dissension and disaffection to the Government." Jonathan Piercy, the Assembly's sergeant at arms, promptly took Goadsby into custody. Piercy also summoned William Ketchum and his wife, Jeronimus Riker, and John Thurman to appear as witnesses.

Goadsby's arraignment before the bar of the Assembly occurred the following day at 11 AM. After the charges against him were read, Goadsby pleaded not guilty. Two of the witnesses, Ketchum and Riker, testified before the House against Goadsby. Then Goadsby was permitted to cross-examine them. The Assembly then ordered that Goadsby should continue to be under arrest and that he be allowed counsel in his defense. Also, an additional witness, Albion Cox, was to be summoned and the hearing continued the next day, Thursday, March 24, at 11 AM.

Evidently Goadsby's difficulties with the Assembly attracted a lot of public notice because at the next hearing a large number of spectators were present. So many came that the House feared the Assembly Chamber might collapse and they adjourned to City Hall where examination of the witnesses continued. Interestingly, Albion Cox was examined as a witness against Goadsby. It is evident that Goadsby and Cox had some sort of relationship at this time. One wonders if Goadsby resented Cox's testimony and if he carried a grudge into their future partnership. Goadsby's counsel, who is unnamed, cross-examined the witnesses in his defense. The House then considered the evidence that had been presented before ordering adjournment.

On Friday the House resumed their consideration of the charge against Goadsby. After due consideration the House ruled that Goadsby was "guilty of a misdemeanor and contempt of the authority of this House." It was then ordered "That the said Thomas Goadsby be brought to the bar of this House, and upon his asking the pardon of the House, for his fault, and paying the Serjeant's fees, he be discharged from custody." When brought to the bar Goadsby asked for pardon and then "declared he was sorry that he had given the House so much trouble." (The complete text, from the Journal of the Assembly of the State of New York, of Goadsby's ordeal is presented in the appendix.)

Unfortunately the specifics of the charges against Thomas Goadsby are not given in the Assembly Journal. Even though he attracted much attention at this time, notice of his "speech" and arraignment before the Assembly failed to make the New York City newspapers. Whatever was the basis of Goadsby's offense, it is interesting to note that he was the only person arraigned by the Assembly during this period.

The following logical historical interpretation of Goadsby's tribulation was offered to the author by Michael Hodder of Wolfeboro, NH:

"The NY Assembly was 'liberal' at the time. In February and March, 1785, it passed a bill which allowed the NYC mechanics to incorporate themselves into trade 'guilds,' like early unions (5). This was opposed by the wealthier NYC merchants and the landed gentry. The NY Council of Revision, established to oversee the action of the Assembly and packed with wealthy 'conservatives,' vetoed the Assembly's passage of the bill. There was lots of recrimination, heated speeches were made pro and con the issue, and the outcome was the ad hoc organization of the mechanics who managed to elect their own slate of representatives (6)....I suspect that Goadsby was one of the 'conservatives' who opposed the Assembly's passage of the mechanics bill, sounded off about his feelings, and so got into trouble. This suggests that he was well-off, and considered himself a member of the mercantile elite in NYC."

FINIS

The final new discovery provides information about Goadsby during the time of his New Jersey coinage contract involvement. The New-York Packet carried the following advertisement, dated March 26, 1788, that mentions Goadsby.

TO BE LET, And entered upon after the first day of April, A TWO STORY DWELLING-HOUSE, chair-house, stable, and store-house; all in complete order, in an agreeable situation for a private gentleman, or for a store keeper, in Elizabeth-Town, being near the center of the town, and having a dock to lade and unlade merchandize - now occupied by Mr. Thomas Goadsby.

Goadsby was living in style, near the home of Matthias Ogden. Ogden was the principal promoter of New Jersey's copper coinage. The question arises as to why Goadsby gave up such "an agreeable situation," and where he resided after April 1st.

The preceding biographical information on Thomas Goadsby is only a beginning. Hopefully much more can be learned about his life from other primary sources available to the researcher.

NOTES

- (1). The manuscript list of loyalists was published in 1917 in a book by William Kelby titled *Delancey's Brigade* (Loyalists 1776-1778). The list appears in an appendix of named loyalists for the years 1776-1783. The appendix includes a Thomas Goadsly. It is believed that Goadsly is a miscopy of Goadsby. The preceding information was generously provided to the author by Michael Hodder of Wolfeboro, NH.
- (2). *Kent's Directory* and *The London Directory* for the year 1782. These directories include the "Names and Places of Abode of the Merchants and Principal Traders of the Cities of London and Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, and their Environs."
- (3). The bankruptcy assignees and commissioners were permitted to increase the reward above 5%, if they thought it was warranted. The English bankruptcy laws for this period are found in William Blackstones's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, Volume 2, published in 1766.
- (4). A list of the Bank of New York charter shareholders appears in Appendix A of Robert A. East's *Business Enterprise in the American Revolutionary Era*, which was published in 1964.
- (5). The bill was titled "An Act Incorporating the Several Tradesmen and Mechanics of the City and County of New-York." During this time, letters to the editor, concerning the preceding bill, were published in the New York City newspapers. But it is unknown if Goadsby wrote one of these letters because all were signed with pseudonyms.
- (6). The ad hoc organization was the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen. The society's membership consisted mainly of New York City's more prominent and well-to-do craftsmen. State coiners, John Bailey and Samuel Atlee, were members.

APPENDIX

JOURNAL OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK 1785 - Eighth Session

Tuesday, March 22

Whereas this House is informed, that a certain Thomas Goadsby, of the city of New-York, merchant, has lately spoken several malicious and defamatory words, derogatory to the honor and dignity of the Legislature, and tending to excite and promote dissension and disaffection to the Government. Thereupon, Ordered, That the Serjeant at Arms [Jonathan Piercy] of this House attach the body of the said Thomas Goadsby, and keep him in custody, and bring him to the bar of this House, on Wednesday next, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon, to answer the premises; and Ordered, That the said Serjeant at Arms do also summon William Ketchum and his wife, Jeronimus Riker and John Thurman, to attend at the same time and place, to be examined as witnesses relative to the facts, mentioned in the preceding order.

Wednesday, March 23

The order of the day being read, and the Serjeant at Arms pursuant to the order of this House of yesterday, being attending Thomas Goadsby in his custody. The said Thomas Goadsby was set to the bar of the House, and the charge against him, that he has lately spoken several malicious and defamatory words, derogatory to the honor and dignity of the Legislature, and tending to excite and promote dissension and disaffection to the Government, being read to him, he pleaded thereto not guilty, and that he had not at any time spoken disrespectfully of this government, or said any thing that might tend to sow sedition.

The House then proceeded to examine William Ketchum and Jeronimus Riker, two of the witnesses against the prisoner, who were also cross-examined by the prisoner.

Thereupon, Ordered, That the prisoner be continued in the custody of the said Serjeant at Arms, and brought again to the bar of this House, tomorrow at eleven of the clock in the forenoon; that the prisoner be allowed counsel on his defense; that the witnesses who have been summoned do attend again at the time above mentioned; and that the Serjeant at Arms do summon Albion Cox to attend this House as a witness at the same time.

Thursday, March 24

The order of the day being read, and the Serjeant at Arms attending Thomas Goadsby, on the charge against him, as entered in the Journal of this House on the two preceding days, the House as well for the safety of the members, as of the great number of spectators present, on account of the weakness of the building which contains the Assembly-Chamber, adjourned to the City-Hall of the city of New-York, and ordered the Serjeant at Arms to attend there with the prisoner, and to direct the witnesses summoned to attend at the Hall, without delay.

The House being met in City-Hall, proceeded to the further examination of the witnesses against the prisoner; and Albion Cox, Jeremiah Wool, Esquire, were examined as witnesses against the prisoner, and were cross-examined by the counsel for the prisoner; and Jonathan Piercy, and the other two witnesses last before named, were examined as witnesses on behalf of the prisoner and his counsel were fully heard in his defense.

Thereupon, Ordered, That the prisoner be continued in custody of the Serjeant at Arms in the recess of the House, and be brought again to the bar when the House shall be convened.

4PM

The House met in the City-Hall of the city of New-York, pursuant to adjournment; and the prisoner, Thomas Goadsby, being at the bar, in custody of the Serjeant at Arms, the House proceeded to the consideration of the charge and evidence against the prisoner, and the evidence given on the part of the prisoner, and his defense by his counsel; and after some time spent thereon, Ordered, That the further consideration thereof be postponed, and that the prisoner be continued in custody of the Serjeant at Arms until the further order of this House.

Friday, March 25

The House then resumed the consideration of the charge against Thomas Goadsby, a prisoner in custody of the Serjeant at Arms, and the evidence given against the prisoner, and also the evidence given on his behalf, and the defense made by counsel for the prisoner; and after the same had been fully recapitulated, heard and considered, Mr. P.W. Yates moved for a resolution and order in the words following, viz. Resolved, That it appears from the evidence offered relative to the charge against Thomas Goadsby, that he has spoken several malicious and defamatory words, derogatory to the honor and dignity of the Legislature, and reflecting on their proceedings; and is therefore guilty of a misdemeanor and contempt of the authority of this House.

Ordered, That the said Thomas Goadsby be brought to the bar of this House, and upon his asking the pardon of the House for his fault, and paying the Serjeant's fees, he be discharged from custody.

Mr. C. Sands then made a motion, that the House, instead of the resolution proposed by the last mentioned motion, should come to a resolution and order in the words following, viz.

Resolved, That it appears to this House, that from the evidence relative to the charge against Thomas Goadsby, that he has spoken defamatory words, derogatory to the honor and dignity of the Legislature, and of this House; and the House do order that the said Thomas Goadsby be set to the bar, and reprimanded by the Speaker in the chair; and that he be thereupon discharged from custody of the Serjeant at Arms, on payment of his fees.

Debates arose on the resolution and order, proposed by the last mentioned motion; and the question being put whether the House did concur in the same, it passed in the negative in the manner following, viz.

For the NEGATIVE [28]

For the AFFIRMATIVE [12]

The question being then put, whether the House did concur in the resolution and order proposed by the motion of Mr. P.W. Yates, it passed in the affirmative; in the manner following, viz.

For the AFFIRMATIVE [29]

For the NEGATIVE [11]

Thereupon, Resolved, That it appears from the evidence offered relative to the charge against Thomas Goadsby, that he has spoken several malicious and defamatory words derogatory to the honor and dignity of the Legislature, and reflecting on their proceedings, and is therefore guilty of a misdemeanor and contempt of the authority of this House.

Ordered, That the said Thomas Goadsby be brought to the bar of this House, and upon his asking the pardon of the House, for his fault, and paying the Serjeant's fees, he be discharged from custody.

The Serjeant at Arms, by order, then brought the prisoner Thomas Goadsby to the bar of the House; and the preceding resolution being read to him, he thereupon asked the pardon of this House for the fault he had committed, and declared he was sorry that he had given the House so much trouble.



Additional Information on JASPER SMITH

by
Gary A. Trudgen

(TN-138A)

CNL No. 89 contained an interesting report by David Gladfelter on a newly discovered New Jersey coinage proposal by Jasper Smith & Co. In his article, titled "A Forgotten New Jersey Colonial Coinage Proposal," Gladfelter presented a very brief biographical sketch on the life of Jasper Smith (page 1278). I would like to provide further details on this man who had also hoped to coin coppers for the State of New Jersey.¹

Jasper Smith was born at Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville), New Jersey, the son of Jasper and Kezia Smith. The senior Smith was a prosperous farmer. Young Jasper entered the Latin grammar school maintained by the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University) in Newark, New Jersey on October 1, 1753. The following year he moved up to the College, also in Newark and run by Aaron Burr, Senior. (The statement in Gladfelter's article that Jasper Smith was a colonial judge of Hunterdon County in 1754 is obviously incorrect.) Unfortunately Jasper's father died suddenly, about the time young Jasper entered the College. But with the prudent management of his inheritance from his father's belongings by his mother and older brother, Jasper's expenses were provided for. The College was moved to the small town of Princeton in the fall of 1756 and Jasper graduated from there in 1758 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Jasper then entered into the study of law, receiving his license in 1763. Soon afterwards, he was commissioned a surrogate of the prerogative court of New Jersey and he moved to Flemington, New Jersey, where he set up his law practice. In 1765 he received his second degree, a Master of Arts, from Princeton. On October 25, 1765 Jasper married a widow, Eleanor (Ryerson) Gouverneur. She died thirteen months after their marriage, along with their child who was about three months old. He married again, on November 27, 1767, this time to Theodotia Reid. They had no children and she died several years after their marriage. Jasper married his third wife, Anne Peck, on January 3, 1811.

During the American Revolution, Jasper served as a delegate from Hunterdon County to the Provincial Congress of New Jersey in May 1775. And in 1776 he was a member of the Amwell Committee of Safety.

Over the years, Jasper Smith's law practice was very successful and he accumulated a large estate. After his retirement Jasper returned to his home town of Lawrenceville and lived the life of a gentleman. He died on October 5, 1813 and was interred in Lawrenceville's Upper Cemetery. (Snell's History, which Gladfelter relied upon, incorrectly gives Jasper Smith's death date as 1814.) Smith's property was inventoried at \$16,590.52 and in his will he gave his farm to the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church.

Editor's Note: Gavid Gladfelter's response is
presented on the next page

JCS

¹ This information about Jasper Smith was extracted from *Princetonians, 1748-1768; A Biographical Dictionary* by James McLachlan and published in 1976 by the Princeton University Press.

**More Thoughts On Jasper Smith
from David Gladfelter; Moorestown, NJ**

(TN-138B)

The additional biographical information on Jasper Smith presented by Gary Trudgen is both interesting and helpful. I was wondering myself about a person becoming a judge first and getting a college degree afterward, but just accepted this information because I assumed that in those days professional qualifications for lawyers and judges was less developed than they are now. Even today, there are municipal court judges and administrative law judges here in New Jersey whom I practice before who do not have law degrees and are not admitted attorneys. They were grandfathered in when the municipal court system was set up and when the Administrative Procedure Act replaced the old system of departmental hearing examiners.

I did not check the colonial commissions but just accepted what was in "Snell" That is the problem of relying on secondary sources. Snell probably became confused, as I was initially with Joseph Biddle (where I did look at some of the primary sources), because the son had the same name as the father. The person who became the judge in 1754 was probably the father of Jasper Smith!

Trudgen says Jasper Smith had no children. Snell said he had a son -- here is another discrepancy.

If someone is going to look up additional information on Jasper Smith, here is an anecdote I picked up from someone in the Archives search room. Jasper Smith apparently left a lot of money to the Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville which the church still uses today to make mortgage loans to its members. His name must be well known locally and a lot more information might be obtained just by talking to people at the church. Who knows, the church may even have his papers (or know who does) which could include the original petition, maybe even sample coins, whatever. Probably nothing like this exists but there might be some records of interest to collectors (such as identification of the copper mine he had an interest in).

Of interest to local history students but probably not to coin collectors would be the identification of Joseph Biddle's 1400 acre tract in Springfield Township. I hope to find this information out, which should not be too difficult. I know their Planning Board attorney and will try to find out surviving family members or local historians through him.



Samuel Broome to Alexander Hamilton re: James Jarvis
from Gary A. Trudgen; Endwell, NY

(TN-141)

As shown in the two letters which follow^A, Coiner Samuel Broome wrote to Lawyer and Congressman Alexander Hamilton for assistance in extracting his son-in-law James Jarvis from the legal problems associated with the Fugio Cents contract. Footnote No.4 appended to Hamilton's reply indicates that this contact was not a simple shot-in-the-dark since his son, Samuel Broome, Jr., had served as an apprentice in Hamilton's law office a few years earlier.

Editor's Note: Hamilton, as we know (CNL, page 286), served on the Congressional Committee (of August 20, 1788) that investigated the contract with Jarvis and that circumstance is undoubtedly the reason for Hamilton's adherence to "the rules of propriety" which prevented his representing Jarvis. Even though Broome's letter of August 13 was dated one week prior to the official formation of the committee, Hamilton no doubt knew in advance that his services would be required by the Congress in this matter. The Committee rejected Jarvis' plea. In retrospect, Jarvis never had a chance with this Committee composed of Hamilton who long held strong views in favor of high intrinsic value of all money, Abraham Clark who was a fellow townsman and friend of Matthias Ogden, runner up for the original contract, Jeremiah Wadsworth who opposed the award, originally, as "ruinous", and Hugh Williamson and Abraham Baldwin! JCS

From Samuel Broome¹

New Haven [Connecticut] August 13, 1788

Dear Sir

I have been informed Congress have appointed a Committee to examine into the situation of their Contract made with Mr James Jarvis for the Loan of a quantity of Coined Copper² and that said Committee had reported that said Contract Was Void should an action be Commenced against Mr Jarvis for damages. I hope you will be pleased to Consider yourself as his attorney in the suit provided there would be a propriety in a Member of Congress acting as an attorney

I am respectfully Dr Sir your Obd Servt

Sam Broome

Honble Alexander Hamilton Esquire

ALS, Hamilton Papers, Library of Congress.

1. Broome, a merchant in New York City until 1775, had in that year moved to New Haven, Connecticut, where he was in business with Jeremiah Platt under the firm name of Broome and Platt until 1786.

2. By a congressional resolution of April 21, 1787, the Board of Treasury had been authorized to contract with James Jarvis of New Haven, Connecticut, to supply the United States with three hundred tons of copper coin (JCC, XXXII, 225). On July 16, 1788, Abraham Clark, delegate from New Jersey, made a motion respecting the contract which was referred to a committee that reported on August 4. Neither the motion nor the report is in the *Journals* or the *Papers of the Congress* (JCC, XXXIV, 329, note 1; 391, note 2). On August 20, according to the Committee Book (*Papers of the Continental Congress*, National Archives), Abraham Clark, Hugh Williamson, Abraham Baldwin, Jeremiah Wadsworth, and H were appointed to report on "the contract with Jarvis for copper coins" (JCC, XXXIV, 444, note 1).

^A *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton, Volume V, June 1788-November 1789.*
Harold C. Syrett, editor. Columbia University Press, New York and London, 1962.

*To Samuel Broome*¹

[New York, August 16, 1788]

Dear Sir

I have this moment received your letter of the thirteenth instant, and am sorry that the rules of propriety in respect to my situation, as a member of Congress, will not permit my acting in the capacity you wish.²

My situation for some time past has prevented my acknowledging one or two of your favors, which have been duly handed to me.³ I recollect that one of them contains an inquiry concerning your son,⁴ to which you will naturally desire an answer. My public avocations for some time past, have put it out of my power to ascertain the progress he has made, though I expect when I shall be enough disengaged to examine, to find it a good one. It cannot fail to be so, if his diligence has been equal to his capacity. I shall shortly write you further on the subject.

with great esteem I remain Sir Your obdt. Servt.

New York 16 August 1788

Mr Samuel Broome

Copy, Hamilton Papers, Library of Congress.

1. In *JCHW*, I, 469, this letter is dated August 6, 1788.

2. See Broome to H, August 13, 1788.

3. Letters not found.

4. Samuel Broome, Jr. was an apprentice in H's law office. See Broome to H, April 18, 1786.

Biographical Sketch - - - Gary A. Trudgen

Gary is a native of Kittanning, PA and lives today in Endwell NY with his wife Nancy and two teenage daughters, Cindy and Susan. He is a graduate of Penn Technical Institute and has been employed for the past 28 years as an electrical engineer by IBM, where he has specialized in analog circuit design and has worked in the development of printers, banking machines and medical equipment — he holds four U.S. Patents. His major numismatic interests are in the New York State issues and especially the history of the people who were involved in the Machin's Mills partnership.

He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and holds the office of historian in his local Binghamton NY chapter and is a descendent of Patriot James Claypoole, Sr. who was high sheriff of the city and county of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War and who also served as a member of the Philadelphia Committee of Safety. Claypoole is recognized as one of the first truly native artists of Pennsylvania, and his son James Claypoole, Jr., through whom Gary is descended, was the first white settler of his home town of Kittanning PA, the Indian village that was destroyed in 1756 during the French and Indian War by Colonial John Armstrong. In honor of this successful raid the City of Philadelphia struck the "Kittanning Destroyed" medal for each of the officers of the expedition.

He first became interested in the state coppers when he obtained a merit badge in coin collecting while in the Boy Scouts of America and became seriously interested in the Early American issues in 1980 and has avidly studied them since that time. Over the years he has collected Indian Head pennies and Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand coins. His other hobbies include bowling, woodworking and the collecting of books dealing with early American history.